

## High Holidays 5759

All High Holiday Services, with the exception of second day Rosh Hashanah, will be held at Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue at McAllister Street. Second day Rosh Hashanah services on Tuesday, September 22, will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church.

### Ticket Policy

Tickets will be required for most services. Services which will not require tickets are Tashlich, second day Rosh Hashanah, Mincha and Children's services. Members in good standing will receive their tickets automatically at the beginning of September. "Good standing" means that you have paid your entire 1997-98 dues pledge and 1998 building assessment, and the first installment of your 1998-99 dues pledge or have made alternative arrangements with the CSZ Dues Committee. Details regarding ticket and order forms for guest tickets will be mailed out in the middle of July. All guest seats will be in the main auditorium. There will be no additional seating areas this year.

### Onegs and Break Fast

Please join us for an oneg following Erev Rosh Hashanah services on Sunday, September 20. In place of an oneg after Rosh Hashanah morning services,

bring a bag lunch and join us at Fort Point for a Seudat Mitzvah picnic prior to Tashlich. Maps will be available at Rosh Hashanah services.

Services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah will be followed by an oneg. There will be a break fast at the conclusion of Neilah, the final service on Yom Kippur.

### AIDS Food Drive

One of the reasons we fast on Yom Kippur is to remind ourselves of the hunger of those in need. As we have for the past nine years, CSZ will collect nonperishable food for Project Open Hand at Kol Nidre and through noon on Yom Kippur. Please bring a bag of food items as part of your Yom Kippur observance.

### Children's Services

On Erev Rosh Hashanah, first day Rosh Hashanah morning, Kol Nidre and on Yom Kippur, CSZ will hold children's services for various age groups concurrent with our other services. Details on children's services will be included with the High Holiday mailing in July.

### Child Care

Child care will be available for all evening and morning services, with the exception of second day Rosh

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## CSZ Interim Space Information

**Contacting us:** Our telephone, fax and e-mail remain the same.

Telephone: (415) 861-6932

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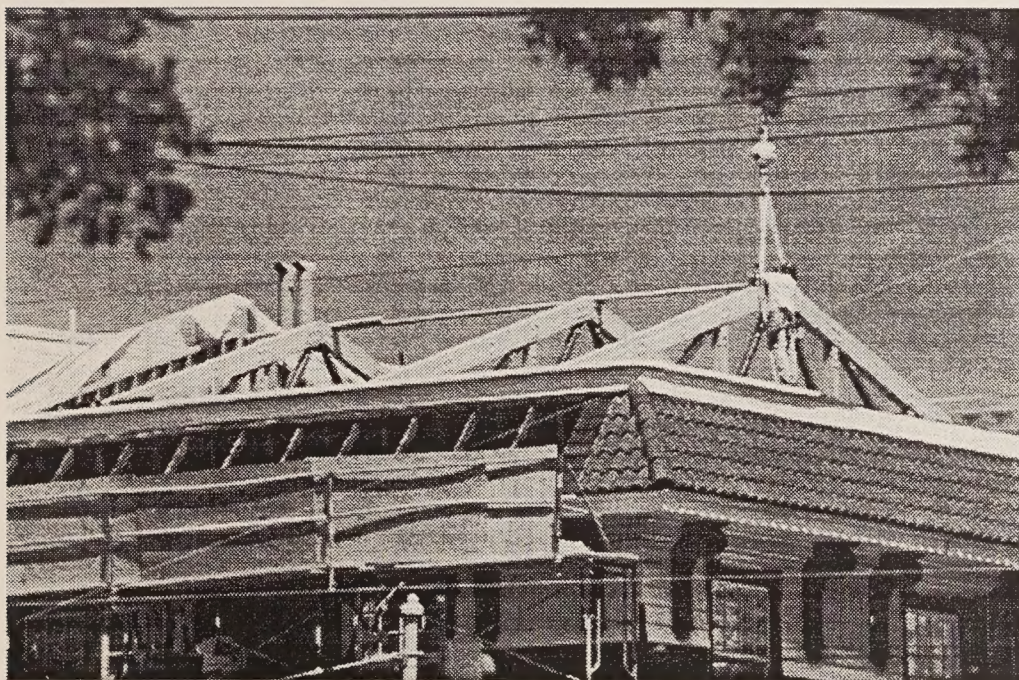
**Writing us:** Please send all roster updates, newsletter submissions, dues payments, donations and other materials to our new home. *Use this address for writing to us only.*

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Visiting us:** Rabbi Litman and our office staff are sharing space with the staff of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th Street, catty-corner from our new building. Our drop-in hours are limited. Please call us before dropping by.

**Worship services:** All Shabbat services, except our monthly East Bay service, are being held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Healing services are at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California Street.

**Meetings:** Va'ad meetings remain open to all members, and are at 345 Church Street. (Church Street Gardens). For the location of committee meetings, contact the chair of the committee.



All trusses in place. Photo by Shamir Ophel.

### Mishkan Dolores

## Final Open House

Join us for one final look at our new home "under construction" before we move in this fall.

Sunday • July 19 • 2-4 pm



## Marriage and Divorce

This column marks the beginning of my second year as Sha'ar Zahav's rabbi. It's been a wonderful year, full of creativity and communal growth. I look forward to the coming year, which promises to be even better.

In any new relationship, coming together is a process of communication and discovery. People have asked me about my particular rabbinic "policies," and I thought I would take the opportunity of a summer (down time for rabbis) newsletter to discuss some of them. As a Reform rabbi, I am generally similar in outlook to the previous spiritual leaders of this congregation, but there are ways in which I may bring new perspective or practices. In particular, I have been asked a number of questions about my rabbinic approach in regard to kiddushin (marriage) and gittin (divorce).



Rabbi Jane Litman

### Kiddushin

Kiddushin celebrates the cosmic value of love as it is reflected in human relationships. The ceremony sanctifies the ethical choice of commitment. As a rabbi, I do not view gender as a particularly relevant category in terms of kiddushin. In my mind, the gender of the beloveds makes no religious difference in the expression of commitment and the significance of love. As I see it, the only difference is that we live in a discriminatory society which delegitimizes and stigmatizes gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender people. If the parties desire, that fact might be noted at a wedding to register conscientious objection, and affirm the courage of a community which supports the love of all people. Although every wedding ceremony should reflect the unique values and esthetics of the beloveds, it is my strong preference to conduct same-gender and mixed-gender rituals identically.

### Gittin

The Reconstructionist movement, through which I was ordained (as well as the Conservative and Orthodox movements), requires a *get* (a Jewish religious divorce) in cases where there

has been a Jewish marriage. I support this stance. I think it makes sense halachically and ritually, and provides important closure to a difficult situation. Gittin establishes the mitzvah of separation when a relationship is destructive, and gives communal and Divine support to those in need of affirmation.

As in kiddushin, it is my rabbinical opinion that the gender of the parties makes no difference in regard to this religious act. However, given the population of our congregation, and the lack of communal consensus, it is sometimes difficult to ascertain whether a particular prior relationship constituted a "Jewish marriage" in the halachic sense of that word. Certainly if there was a ritual with a chuppah and a ketubah, that would require a *get*. Issues in regard to marriage to a non-Jewish partner or relationships in which the nature of the commitment was not entirely clear, are best dealt with on a case-by-case basis in consultation with me. In general, a relationship between two Jews, which at the time was assumed to be a longterm commitment, even in the absence of chuppah and ketubah, constitutes a Jewish kiddushin for the purposes of a *get*.

The optimal time to register a *get* is at the time of complete separation or divorce, that is, when the long-term commitment is permanently dissolved. I am aware that many of the congregation's members are divorced and do not have gittin. I urge them to register gittin as part of the sacred system of the Jewish people, but do not require it in the absence of a new committed relationship. However, it is not possible, halachically, to enter into kiddushin when one is still religiously tied to another, and therefore a *get* is required before entering into a new marriage, even for a prior marriage far in the past. As a rabbi, I cannot officiate at a wedding in which one or both partners have been previously married unless a *get* for the previous relationship has been registered.

I hope this clarifies my stance in these matters. If you have any questions or want to explore one of these rituals, please feel free to make an appointment to discuss your concerns.

## Summer Holidays

### Tisha b'Av

Tisha b'Av, the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av, is a day of mourning that commemorates the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem and the beginning of the Jewish exile from the land of Israel. Other catastrophes also associated with Tisha b'Av are the suppression of the Bar Kochba rebellion (135 C.E.) and the expulsion of the Jews from England (1290 C.E.) and Spain (1492 C.E.). Traditionally, Tisha b'Av is marked with a day of fasting and mourning.

CSZ will observe the holiday of Tisha b'Av on Saturday, August, 1 at 8:30 pm. Rabbi Litman and Brian Besser will lead a Havdallah service followed by the reading of the Book of Lamentations and the chanting of traditional dirges. The evening will continue with text study and discussion focusing on both our communal and personal experiences of mourning and tragedy.

### Tu b'Av

Tu b'Av, the 15th day of the month of Av, is a joyous midsummer festival in direct contrast to Tisha b'Av. The Talmud states, "There are no days as festive to Israel as those of Yom Kippur and the 15th of Av. The daughters of Israel used to dress in white and go out to the fields to dance..." (Ta'anit 4:8). This minor holiday serves as a transition to move us from the mourning of Tisha b'Av to the renewal of Elul and the New Year.

This year, Tu b'Av falls on Friday, August 7. All CSZ members are invited to mark this festival of love and redemption by wearing all white at our regular Friday evening service. Rabbi Litman will give a sermon on the historical roots of Tu b'Av and its transformation for modern times. Following the service, everyone is invited to continue celebrating at a ritual of singing and dancing in the light of the full moon. Please call Renée in the CSZ office for more information.





## Summer Vacation, Sort Of

Here we are in July again, looking forward to our summer lives. It always seems to me that the last weeks of June and the first few of July are a resting period before we begin our race through the next year. I like this time of year. We have finished the congregational meeting, adopted next year's budget, and are looking forward to the Advance. We take a rest in July, although not totally, and try to give those who work so hard in leadership a break from the seemingly endless rounds of meetings. At home, the kids finish school, the summer schedule is in place, and we look forward to a few short weeks of less homework and more adventures. I know that the bureaucrat who devised the fiscal year system probably did not intend it to coincide with spring, but that is how I see it. We have completed the activities of the year past and stand ready to begin anew the cycle of our congregational lives. But first, we all take a little break and enjoy what we have done.

Not that all work stops, of course. After a long search, we finally located a new space for our High Holiday services. We will be working hard to make



Diana Buchbinder

Herbst Theater a special place for our congregation. Our office staff and Ritual Committee face the challenge of arranging and leading High Holiday services in the third location in three years. The Advance is well along in the planning stage, and we are going to a new location for this too. Our new building is becoming more of a reality every day. Watching the roof trusses being raised into place was an exhilarating experience, and I enjoy driving by to see what changes have been made to the building each day. Before long we will leave St. Matthew's and be living in our new home.

At the congregational meeting we elected four new Va'ad members and a new recorder. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Lisa Katz, Michael Chertok, Lyssa Friedman for their service as Va'ad members and Mark Bowers for serving as recorder. They each fulfilled their commitments with grace and style, and, although they continue to be active in other areas, I will miss their participation on the Va'ad. At the August Va'ad meeting we will welcome Jacob Rothman, Robin Leonard, Sarita Groisser and Robert Tat. I am looking forward to working with them on the Va'ad during my final year as president. I also give special thanks to those committee chairs and members who are moving on to other endeavors, although I will not name them all here.

Once again the quality of our lay leadership is evidenced in those who agree to come forward to participate in sustaining our community. The success of

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## Jewish Film Festival

### Jewish/Queer Issues

The 18th annual San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (which runs July 16-23 in San Francisco, July 25-30 in Berkeley, July 26-30 in Menlo Park and August 1-3 in Larkspur) includes seven films that explore lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Jewish life in Israel, the U.S. and Canada. A free seminar will take place at San Francisco's Castro Theater on Tuesday, July 21 at 8:45 pm. Panelists Rabbi Rebecca T. Alpert, Irena Klepfisz, Gal Uchovsky, Naomi Seidman and Avi Rose will address how queer Jews are transforming Jewish spiritual, political and communal life. The films are:

#### From Israel

**Florentine**—A slick, Generation X film, following the lives of nine young people living in Tel Aviv who have little interest in politics until after the shooting of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

**Amos Gutman, Filmmaker**—Interviews with lovers, family and friends tell the gripping story of this gay filmmaker who has become a revered cult figure of Israeli cinema.

**Gotta Have Heart**—The story of Gur and Mitzi, friends from childhood, in a film described by the filmmaker as a "gay Israeli fantasy."

#### From Canada

**Nana, George and Me**—A young, gay Iraqi-Jewish filmmaker takes a funny, intimate and charmingly unconventional look at three Iraqi-Jewish lives.

**1919**—Bathhouse Bolsheviks run rampant in the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

#### From the United States

**Treyf**—By and about two Jewish lesbians who met and fell in love at a Pass-over seder.

To purchase individual tickets, consult the film festival program or call 824-3378. Groups of ten or more receive a discount of \$2 off the advance ticket price of \$7. For group sales, call Kate Goldstein Breyer at 621-0556.



Officers and Rabbi Litman, Annual Meeting. Photo by Michael Bettinger.



## Right vs. Right

—Ron Lezell

As many of you know, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) has chosen to table a resolution by its Ad Hoc Committee on Jewish Sexual Values concerning Jewish religious officiation at same-gender marriages. A few years ago, the CCAR passed a resolution by an overwhelming margin, urging that the benefits of civil marriage be granted to same-gender couples. In addition, even without a resolution in place calling for religious officiation, hundreds of American Reform rabbis perform, or would perform if asked, same-gender ceremonies. The decision of the CCAR to table this resolution resulted from the heated discussion among American rabbis, rabbis in Israel and rabbis in the Diaspora.

Among the strongest proponents of tabling the resolution was Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, the Executive Director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA). While Rabbi Hirsch expressed his personal view, the lay ARZA National Board, with over 70 people present, discussed this issue fully. The board agreed that it would not be wise for ARZA, as a lay organization, to take any official position as to the proposed action by the CCAR, a rabbinical body. However, the lengthy discussion made it clear that the overwhelming feeling of those present, if not the unanimous point of view, was that it would be unwise for this resolution to be passed. It was also the strong feeling of the lay ARZA leaders that they did not wish to see the resolution defeated as that would cause pain and would send the wrong message.

How could ARZA do this? Is this the same organization that many of you support with your annual membership? The same progressive, values-based affiliate of the Reform movement that stood alone in 1993, led by Rabbi Hirsch, in demanding that New York's G/L/B outreach synagogue, Congregation Bet Simchat Torah (CBST) be permitted to march in the Salute to Israel Parade? When parade organizers refused to allow CBST to carry their own banner, ARZA was prepared to march under the banner "ARZA proudly marches with Congregation Bet Simchat Torah in sa-

lute to Israel." When organizers refused to allow this, ARZA—standing up to this discrimination towards its gay and lesbian colleagues, friends and congregants—pulled out of the parade and organized a separate event.

Is this the same Rabbi Hirsch who has consistently taken positions supporting and promoting the lesbian and gay community; the same who has given numerous interviews to the media in the U.S. and in Israel advocating full civil and religious rights for lesbians and gay men?

Friends, this is the same ARZA and the same Rabbi Hirsch. I can tell you that they remain our very good friends and we should treat ARZA and Rabbi Hirsch accordingly. While I believe that gays and lesbians, as a basic human right, should be able to marry in either a civil or religious ceremony if desired, here are some of the reasons I support Rabbi Hirsch's and the ARZA Board's decision to table the resolution.

Many believe that if the Reform rabbinate of America were to officially call for performing same-gender marriages

in a Jewish religious framework, it could have a negative effect on the access of millions of non-Orthodox Israelis to a basic human right of their own: the right to full religious freedom such as that which we enjoy in the U.S.

The ultra-Orthodox stranglehold on Judaism in Israel has largely stripped from Israelis the compassionate and living religious Jewish tradition that we know and practice. The only Judaism that millions of Israelis know is one of bureaucracy and coercion. However, over the past several years, even with (or perhaps because of) an Israeli government more than ever beholden to the whims of the ultra-Orthodox minority, signs of a meaningful alternative to Orthodoxy are taking hold in Israel. With the support of ARZA and our partners in the Conservative movement, Israelis are increasingly making it known to the national and local governments that they too deserve their right to practice Judaism in a manner that is meaningful and spiritually self-fulfilling. With our help, the Israelis

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*The Jewish Gaily Forward* is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July–August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 861-6932. Email: ShaarZahav@igc.apc.org. To request permission to reprint material, contact Robin Leonard (841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com).

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

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Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics

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**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

July–August 1998/Volume 21, Issue 11.

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## Revelation at 4:41 am

—Robin Leonard

We began at 9 pm, about 25 Sha'ar Zahavnicks, anxious to study at CSZ's first all-night Tikkun Leyel Shavuot. It started with Havdallah, tasting the wine, smelling the spices, experiencing the light. Rabbi Jane suggested that we make the Hebrew letter "shin" with our fingers, signifying God's essence, and study it through the light of the Havdallah candle. Thus began our all-night study of shin, which would last through the light of early morning.

With CSZ member Rabbi Sandy Lowe, we talked of prophets, monotheistic ecstasy and realizing the patterns that shape the world. Supervisor Mark Leno (who attended rabbinical school for two and a half years) shared with us the prayers that mark his identity as a Jew, a gay man and a participant in God's creation. With Congregation Emanu-el's Rabbi Sydney Mintz, we turned to the Book of Ruth to study social justice and treatment of the stranger among us. We would return to the Book of Ruth often throughout the night.

Ruth. The first convert. One of two women for whom a book of the Bible is named. Isn't the Book of Ruth about how to treat another human being? Devotion to the mother-in-law, Naomi. The Moab stranger in Bethlehem. The family elder (Boaz) who does the right thing. I began to think that the Book of Ruth is a microcosm for Tanakh's true message. Then I decided everyone was too perfect. We human beings have fallen short so often that if the Book of Ruth was deemed Tanakh's centrality, we'd have thrown out Tanakh a long time ago. We need the dysfunctional dynamics, too—Cain and Abel, Abraham and Sarah, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Leah and Rachel, Joseph and his brothers, Moses the murderer, David and Bathsheba. That's the real stuff. Those people erred, picked themselves back up and won God's favor. I can relate to them. I'll keep them, too.

Rabbi Mintz left us around 12:45 am. Our heads were spinning. Our teachers—both the discussion leaders and the people sitting to our right and our left—gave us much to think about. We noshed and drank coffee and tea. Lots of coffee and tea.

Phyllis Mintzer abandoned her origi-

nal topic on foods and the symbols of Shavuot. Instead, using her gift of gentle persuasion, she had us talk about life after death, *olam haba* (the world to come), heaven and hell, souls and the resurrection of the dead. Wow. Heavy stuff at 2 am. But maybe 2 am is the best time to have this kind of conversation.

Following Phyllis' lead, Rabbi Jane tossed aside her original topic (same-sex medieval love poetry) to talk about tzedakah (justice-based charity) and gemilut chasadim (acts of loving-kindness) as the markers of what make us Jewish. Are they as different as one author of a piece we read sets them out to be? She writes, "Moral behavior, politics and social action grounded in empathy [gemilut chasadim] are different from social action guided by justice [tzedakah]." I had to disagree. Are we really acting in a just manner if we are not empathic?

Around 3 am, we shifted gears. Jhos Singer led us in two meditative chants. Some of us danced, some of us waved our arms, some of us gently swayed, some of us sat perfectly still. I wondered how early the members of St. Matthew's arrived for their Sunday morning service. If they had walked in between 3 and 4 am, they'd have figured that we had either gone nuts or had experienced revelation.

Revelation. Wasn't that why we were there? We all stood at Sinai and received Torah. I find that to be wonderfully comforting yet totally bizarre. *I am not 3200 years old*. Is my soul? Maybe Sinai wasn't one time, one place. Isn't every place, every moment I am alive potentially Sinai?

The Felder Noilys were our teachers for the 4 o'clock hour. With Dev, we talked more about the Book of Ruth and the treatment of the stranger. With Sara, we each wrote a line of poetry, which she ordered randomly:

We received the Ten Commandments at 5:00 am and the sky was a deep blue—like the deepest ocean waters, my coat slung carelessly across a lopsided table.

Life upon the wicked stage is what Torah challenges.

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## April Va'ad Minutes

**D'var Torah.** David Gellman delivered the d'var Torah on the historical meaning of leaving one's door open for Elijah at a Passover seder.

**Rabbi's report.** Diana Buchbinder delivered the Rabbi's report in her absence. One *get*, one welcome to the covenant (James Carlson), one adult Bat Mitzvah (Phyllis Mintzer), one funeral, a welcome to Jhos and Bon Singer's new son, and a baby born on April 9 were reported to the Va'ad.

**President's report.** Nominations for the Va'ad and for officers were as follows: Joe Hample, Recorder; Robin Leonard, Sarita Groisser, Robert Tat and Jacob Rothman, Va'ad members. Thanks were expressed to those members of the Va'ad whose terms have ended and to the outgoing recorder.

**Educator's report.** David Schneer reported on the results of a survey done to determine the day of the week on which Kadimah classes will be held: Saturday. He presented an amendment to the bylaws of the Children's Education Board. Motion: That the bylaws be amended to include the CEB as a standing committee, subject to final wording as determined by the Bylaws Committee. Seconded and unanimously approved. The Va'ad thanked David and the CEB for their detailed survey of parents' attitudes about the appropriate day for classes. David added that emergency procedures appropriate to the new building need to be established. Motion: That an additional mid-week Hebrew class be added (cost +\$150) for Rishonim and B'nei Mitzvah students. Seconded and unanimously approved.

**Program Director's report.** Renée Bauer reported on the sign-ups for Sukkot in April and asked that the minutes reflect special thanks to Prudence Carter and Laura Lowe. Renée thanked Joe Hample for his work on creating the new men's committee. Adult Education has begun a Saturday morning trail midrash. Diversity dialogs will begin; Renée will provide further information.

**Membership Committee report.** Sara Haber moved that five new membership units be approved. Seconded and unanimously approved.

**Architecture and Design Committee report.** Ellie Cohen and Lisa Katz announced that the \$1.3 million pledge goal has been exceeded, and additional monies are earmarked for Phase II of the building project. Kudos were offered to Alice Prussin. A lengthy discussion of acknowledgement of major donors ensued. Diana took a poll of the sense of the room on major donor dedications, acknowledgement of contributors and distinctions between levels of donation. This issue will be a theme of many future Va'ad meetings.

**Treasurer's report.** Arthur Slepian delivered the second reading of the budget. Motion to recommend to the Congregation that the budget be adopted was unanimously approved. Thanks and sustained applause.



The first truss goes on the new building.  
Photo by Shamir Ophel.

## May Va'ad Minutes

**D'var Torah.** Rabbi Litman conducted a directed meditation during the d'var Torah and discussed the meaning of the omer.

**Rabbi's report.** There were four baby namings in the month of April. Rabbi Litman reviewed the contents of letters from the CCAR and ARZA and to ARZA from Rabbi Litman and President Diana

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## July Anniversaries

- 4 Dvora Honigstein and Mary Sue Philp
- 4 Richard Meyerson and Duane Bryant
- 10 Elizabeth Katz and Lee Ann Thompson
- 11 Judith Berkowitz and Sheryl Connell
- 12 Alan Ferrara and Allan Gold
- 25 Daniel Chesir and Stefan Rowniak
- 25 Carole Migden and Cris Arguedas
- 25 Ron and Ruth Miguel
- 26 Rose Katz and Carol Seajay
- 27 David Couch and Nancy Halloran

## August Anniversaries

- 1 Steven Berlin and Jim Muth
- 1 Francine Frohlich and Margaret Murray
- 5 Carolyn Reiser and Karren Shorofsky
- 7 Judith Wolfe and Jenny Hughes
- 11 Ron Wolberg and Bruce Connell
- 13 Toby Dyner and Deborah Hamolsky
- 15 Jonathan Funk and John Arnold
- 19 Inbal Kashtan and Kathy Simon
- 20 Marsha Blachman and Amy Gentile
- 23 Leora Eisenberg and Rebecca Weber
- 25 Dey and Antoinette Rose
- 27 Steven Elman and Tom Holt
- 27 Nina Kaiser and Nora Klimist
- 31 Nicole Bloom and Sue Swigart

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## Jonah Levy

Jonah Levy will be called to the Torah to become Bar Mitzvah on August 22, 1998. Jonah just finished the seventh grade at Bret Harte Middle School, where his favorite subjects are music (Jonah plays jazz and symphonic trumpet) and science, because he likes to see how things affect other things. Jonah enjoys hanging out with his friends and playing basketball.

Jonah would like to thank his tutor, Brian Besser.

The entire Sha'ar Zahav family wishes mazel tov to Jonah and his family: Eileen Levy, Jeanette Nichols and Max Rossoff-Nichols.

## Feygelah Schmeygelah

Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™, in cooperation with the Jewish Film Festival, presents "Feygelah Schmeygelah: An Evening of Queer Jewish Humor" on Saturday, August 8, 7 pm at Fort Mason's Cowell Theater. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Partial proceeds will benefit a to-be-announced organization.

Join a spectacular line-up of funny feygelahs and dykelahs including: CSZ's own, Sara Felder of "June Bride" fame, whose unique brand of performance combines queer and Jewish content with humor, juggling and schtick; local Gen X comic, Dan Rothenberg, who has quickly become one of San Francisco's most sought after comics and who will just be returning from Montreal's International Comedy Festival; CSZ's own Lisa Geduldig, comedian and the producer of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ as your host; and others to be announced. For ticket info, call 522-3737 or visit our World Wide Web site at [www.igc.org/koshercomedy](http://www.igc.org/koshercomedy).

## Benjie Achtenberg

Benjie Achtenberg will be called to the Torah to become Bar Mitzvah on August 8, 1998. Benjie just finished the seventh grade at San Francisco Day School, where his favorite subjects are math, science and history. Benjie enjoys science because his teacher provides opportunities for a lot of hands-on learning—Benjie's end-of-year project was to build and launch a rocket. He enjoys history because his teacher challenges his class, teaching at the college level. When he's not in school, Benjie enjoys hanging out with his friends, rollerblading, skateboarding, snowboarding, and playing baseball and hockey.

Benjie has been at Kadimah since kindergarten. He sees his Bar Mitzvah as a graduation and moving to the next step in life—a growing up. Benjie would especially like to thank his tutor, Daniel Chesir.

The entire Sha'ar Zahav family wishes mazel tov to Benjie and his mothers, Mary Morgan and Roberta Achtenberg.



## New Member

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new member this month. A warm welcome to the most recent person to join our family:

**Yuri Hospodar**

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## AIDS Walk 1998

Sha'ar Zahav will once again contribute a team at AIDS Walk San Francisco on July 19, joining hundreds of other teams and thousands of individuals to walk and raise money in Northern California's largest AIDS fundraising event. Last year, more than 25,000 walkers raised a record \$3.5 million.

Where do our dollars go? The AIDS service organizations that will benefit are chosen to best represent the entire spectrum of programs needed by men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS, their families and the Bay Area community at large. Last year, the benefiting organizations provided all five Bay Area counties with an incredible array of essential services: access to new treatment therapies such as protease inhibitors; support to children of families affected by HIV/AIDS; multilingual hotline crisis counseling and referrals; legal counseling and public policy advocacy support services to family members caring for people living with AIDS; HIV vaccine advocacy; information on life-saving strategies for early diagnosis and intervention and much more. By joining CSZ's team this year, you will have a direct role in funding the service, education and advocacy programs that are fundamental in the fight to conquer AIDS.

Last year our team had 12 walkers who raised more than \$2,300 by collecting sponsorships from family members, friends and co-workers. This year we hope to have even more walkers who can raise even more money. Please sign up to be on CSZ's AIDS walk team by filling out a registration card available on the membership table at Shabbat services or by calling Renée in the office. If you are unable to walk with us, please consider sponsoring someone on our team.

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## Israel, 28 Years Later

—Robert Tat

In late April, Paul Cohen and I were part of a group of 100 San Franciscans on a Jewish Community Federation Mission to Israel to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern Jewish state. Other Sha'ar Zahav members on the trip included Seth Moskowitz and Al Baum.

I had not been in Israel since 1970. That spring I concluded a year of study at the Hebrew Union College Jerusalem campus, dropped out of rabbinical school, and returned to San Francisco to explore my newly discovered gay identity. Upon my return this spring, I of course found Israel significantly changed, but at the same time surprisingly familiar.

Whenever I travel, little anecdotes hold the most relevance for me. They seem to best define the place and the experience. I offer a few of them here:

Paul and I visited Ben Maimon Street in Jerusalem and found the house where I had lived 28 years ago. It looked much the same. I wanted to contact the woman I had rented from, but was unable to find her in the phone book.

My house was across the street from the former prime minister's residence, from where I used to see Golda Meir occasionally coming and going. I was disheartened to see the former official residence now abandoned and in disrepair. It seemed a sad commentary on the Israel I remember from those hopeful years after the Six Day War and on the Israel of today where there is still no peace. Most Israelis we spoke with were discouraged with the Netanyahu government and pessimistic that peace would come anytime soon.

The day we visited Yad Vashem, it was crowded with young soldiers. Our guide explained that visiting the Holocaust Memorial is part of their army training, so that they will understand for what they are fighting. Later, he related a story: The commander of the Israel Defense Forces was invited to speak at the ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in Poland. He approached the podium and spoke only the following few words: "Today the Israel Defense Forces have arrived in Auschwitz, but it is 50 years too late."

When I last lived in Israel, one had to

wait months to get a telephone installed, and then it didn't work all that well. Today, it seems every Israeli carries a cell phone. In fact, there is even a cell phone store in Jerusalem open 24 hours a day! Israelis are on the phone everywhere. Case in point: while I was walking along the beach promenade in Tel Aviv, a couple sped past me on a tandem bicycle. The man in the front steered; the woman behind peddled and spoke on her cell phone.

Yom Ha Zikaron, the Day of Remembrance, is a solemn day in Israel as the country remembers all who have fallen in war. On a kibbutz we visited that day, I observed a memorial display with several dozen photographs of kibbutz members who had died in defense of their country. Looking at the faces of these young men and women, I felt profoundly moved and saddened. An Israeli mother who was with our group that day shared her fears with me, that peace would never come and that her children might end up in a future memorial display. There was nothing I could say to her. I just took her arm.

At a special absorption program for high school students in the northern Galilee, we asked a Russian teenager why he wanted to come to Israel without his parents. He explained that if he stayed in the Ukraine he would have to join the army at age 16. There the officers treated enlisted men very badly and

there were many accidents. Our group countered, "But you'll have to join the army here after high school, won't you?" to which the boy replied enthusiastically: "Oh sure, but that's no problem!"

While walking in Tel Aviv, I looked up and noticed a row of balconies on an apartment building. All were barren except for one which was tastefully landscaped with potted plants—and decorated with a rainbow flag.

My friend Neil Folberg, an internationally known photographer and art dealer, is an Orthodox Jew who made aliya from San Francisco 21 years ago. When he invited me to join his family for Shabbat dinner, he cautioned me to arrive in his observant neighborhood before candle lighting. Just as my cab pulled up to his building, the warning sirens sounded to signal the beginning of Shabbat. We shared a wonderful evening and meal together. I loved Neil's custom of blessing his children at the table and pausing between courses to sing lively Shabbat melodies. After dinner, as Neil walked me back to my hotel, I felt a special Shabbat peacefulness one can only feel in Jerusalem.

Israel continues to be a land of great change and contrast. It is not a nation at peace with itself. But despite all the problems and frustrations of the present-day state, the spirit of Israel is very much as I remember it—one of vibrancy and a strong sense of purpose.



Robert Tat and Paul Cohen at the Western Wall, Old City, Jerusalem.



## Three Michaels and an Avi Discuss Judaism and Sexual Identity

—Michael Shaps

When you think about Bugs Bunny, how would you describe his sexual identity? Would you describe him as gay, straight or bisexual? There is no question that he was sexual. Sometimes his eyes would boing out towards a lady rabbit and sometimes he would plant a big smooch on Yosemite Sam or Elmer Fudd. Ask anyone and you would probably get a different opinion.

Sexual identity and sexual activity are two different things. When I started writing this article, I thought I would try to put in a definition of each, thinking it would be easy to do. Right? Wrong. We had 25 different opinions about what they mean from the 25 or so men and three women who met to discuss the issues of sexual identity and Judaism one Sunday evening last April.

The four people on the panel were very different and complementary to each other. One panel member, Michael, is straight and a member of the synagogue. Another panel member, Avi, is visiting from England, born to an Orthodox family. Still another panel member had seen the gay movement and CSZ blossom into what they are today. His name is Michael. And, me, a fairly new member of CSZ, who has not been as involved as I would like to be.

The evening started off pretty lightly. The four panel members discussed their relationships with Judaism and sexual identity. We talked about being a straight member in a predominantly gay congregation, the evolution of the synagogue, our parents (of course), our friends, significant others and events that led up to where we are and who we are today. The discussion got lively when Rabbi Litman opened up the floor for comments. We encouraged people to talk about their experiences with CSZ. There were many thoughts in response to this question and people spoke their minds. To me, it felt good that people were able to be so open and talk about their feelings in such a space. It says a lot for CSZ that they were able to be so comfortable. But what did these things mean to the synagogue?

I go back to our panel members. The sheer diversity of these four men is the answer to the question that I sought. We are all truly different. Even our

sameness is different. We are all Jewish. That is a sameness. However, what Judaism means to us is different. How we live our lives is different. How we follow the traditions are different. Many members of the congregation are gay. Some are straight. Some are bisexual. These parts of our sexual identity mean different things to each of us. The questions to me become: How do we accept these differences in other people? Do we embrace them and learn from each other? Do we seek out people who are more similar to us and close off those who are different? Do we put ourselves into positions to help make people aware of who we are and what we want out of life and the synagogue? Or do we wait for them to come to us?

For me, I take the attitude and conviction of my friend Bugs Bunny. Bugs' popularity stems from his ability to do things that general society does not always approve of and yet he always seems to fit in. He acts out other people's repressions, but they are not his. He dresses in drag, has verbal sassiness and kisses the fellas. At times, he plays roles he may not want because that is what others expect of him. Many times, he is the underdog, letting others get the best of him for a while. He is truly comfortable with himself. These issues of living my life for myself and not for others is what I have learned in the past 35 years and what I shared with 25 men and three women one Sunday evening last April.

## New Administrative Assistant

Hello to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav! My name is Charlotte Smith, and I'll be a new voice on the phone when you call the synagogue. I joined CSZ as the new administrative assistant in June, and I look forward to meeting each of you. I'm a needlepointing, would-be novelist, San Franciscan, and very happy to be here at CSZ. Feel free to call and introduce yourselves.

## CSZ Video Goes International

Sha'ar Zahav's "Celebration Video," which premiered at our 18th anniversary party in 1995, will be screened at this year's 3rd Budapest International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. The festival is being held in conjunction with Hungary's second public lesbian/gay pride march on July 4, 1998. The Budapest Gay Jewish group specifically requested that the festival screen the video, and they subsequently contacted the synagogue to obtain a copy.

The uniquely moving and entertaining program captures a snapshot of CSZ—giving a sense of the congregation's beginnings and history, as well as the important role the congregation has played in American Jewish and gay life over the past 21 years. The program was seen at last year's 21st San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Video cassettes are available for purchase through the synagogue office.



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## My Conversion Is Truly Over

—Tory Weiser

My conversion and welcome to the covenant service are over. Now I'm just a Jew, having been there at Sinai with everyone else.

My actual conversion was magical and meaningful. We met at the mikveh and my Bet Din (Rabbi Jane Litman, Rabbi Helen Cohn of Congregation Emanu-el and Alan Ferrara) began. I had been terribly anxious about the Bet Din for weeks and months. I was convinced, despite reassurances from Rabbi Jane, that the Bet Din would chew me up and spit me out...and then flunk me. Flunking loomed largely in my mind.

Most of my fears vanished as we sat down and they started asking me questions. They were general questions about what brought me to Judaism, what my beliefs were, about *tikkun olam*, how my relationship with Robin had changed during my study for conversion and who my favorite people were in Tanakh. These were questions I could answer. At the end of our talk, they asked me to leave the room for a few minutes so they could speak alone. All of my carefully crafted confidence during the Bet Din collapsed. I knew they were talking about passing or flunking me. But when I returned they cheerfully greeted me as a new Jew. I was vastly relieved. I started crying. I realized how important the Bet Din was for me. After a year of study, I was able to go before three people I liked and respected and gain acceptance and approval for my study and my life as a Jew.

Robin, Rabbi Jane and I then proceeded to the mikveh as Rabbi Cohn and Alan waited just outside the room but within our hearing. As I walked down the seven steps to the pool, Rabbi Jane had me ponder the seven days of creation, one for each step. Weighty thoughts. After I was in the pool, Rabbi Jane had me meditate on what I wanted to leave behind as I entered my new life as a Jew. Then I sunk beneath the surface of the water. I came up, and Robin declared my immersion "kosher." Then I spoke the blessing for the mikveh.

Before the second immersion, Rabbi Jane had me meditate on my current life and beliefs. I surfaced to hear again Robin declare "kosher," and then I

chanted the Shehechyanu. The third time, I meditated on my future as a Jew and after Robin declared that immersion "kosher," I sang the Shema. Robin started crying. I had never before felt as I did when I was in the waters of the mikveh. I felt God in the water all around me. I felt blessed, strengthened, lightened and lifted as I climbed from the mikveh. I couldn't wipe the smile off my face as Robin came to hug me.

I grinned for days after the mikveh and Robin finally stopped crying.

The following week, I was welcomed into the covenant at Shabbat services. I knew I was to be given an aliyah, so I practiced the blessing all week. We arrived to find a very large congregation gathered for service. Because it was the last Friday of the month, it was a Torah service. After the Amidah, Rabbi Jane called me to the bimah. When the ark opened, she handed me the Torah. As I held it in my arms, I felt like I held the most precious bundle in all the world. I felt God around me and in the Torah. I chanted the Shema again. The congregation embraced me as Rabbi Jane said something. God only knows what. (I have forgotten so much of what was said; I remember only what happened and the accompanying sensations.) And then I walked through the congregation and felt all the hands reaching for the Torah with reverence. I stopped feeling the weight of the Torah. I felt only loving Jewish hands expressing their love of Judaism.

I was saddened when the Torah was taken away from me and laid down to be read. Robin then came onto the bimah to wrap me in my new tallit, and we both began to cry. I chanted my aliyah blessing. On normal days, talking in front of that size group would have been heart stopping for me. Singing would have been unthinkable. But on this night, it felt perfectly natural. When the Torah service was over, I floated off the bimah back to my seat.

Now, days later, I still remember both events. I hope I will always remember my conversion with the same excitement, reverence and pride I feel now. It saddens me that born Jews don't have the same opportunity to go to the mikveh and have a welcome to the covenant service. They miss so much.

## Revelation

Continued from page 5

"Anytime you come over, I'll be ready."

Twenty of the 600,000 juggling the meanings, the laws, the whisper of Sinai while new satellites shoot through the skies, dew glistens on the iris, the silence that falls after our chant—deeper than sound.

She felt the warmth of all their hands on her back as she struggled through the murky waters, coming back to life as a beginning to an end.

Tzedakah begins at home.  
Here's a deal: you do Shabbos, I give you *olam haba*.

Long after midnight, in the still desert of Sinai, God said to Moses: "F=ma."

Peace, everlasting peace.

I'm lost and searching and discovering—always at the same moment, for all was revealed for all time, otters rolling on an incoherent ocean, Leaving Moab-land for Bethlehem bound.

At 5 am, we read the *Perek Shirah* with Barak Gale. In each line, God's creatures—plants and animals, mountains and rivers—sing out to God in a special way. We were those creatures singing, singing. We sang our poem, we sang quietly. Renée Bauer asked us each to write down a time in our life when we had experienced God. Was it that moment?

We continued our singing with the Shacharit service. We faced east, looking at windows that weren't really windows. We saw only darkness. But when we chanted our last amen at 5:45 am, we turned to the opposite windows. The sun was up. We set out, to live and experience Sinai.



## World Congress: An American in Paris

—David Gellman

The only thing that could make Paris in May more beautiful and exotic would be the gathering of a beautiful and exotic group of European and Israeli Jews at the 5th European-Israeli Regional Conference of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jews (which I have now properly learned to call La 5ième Conférence Régionale Européenne/Israélienne des Juifs et Juives Gais, Lesbiennes et Bisexuel[le]s). It was my privilege to represent CSZ at the Conference, which was co-sponsored by Beit Haverim, Paris's gay and lesbian Jewish group, and the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, of which Sha'ar Zahav is a member.

The weekend included seminars on topics ranging from "The Recognition of the Gay Couple in Europe," "Being HIV Positive in the Jewish World," "The Position of Lesbians in the Jewish World" (a women-only seminar) to "Gay Morals?" I misread the title of the last one, and thought we were going to look at gay murals!

The European perspective was fascinating, and a real eye-opener for an American "mec" (guy) coming from San Francisco, where many freedoms and privileges are easily taken for granted. An example: during the discussion on finding Jewish partners, I suggested that a Jewish parent could be a formidable force in matchmaking. Following translation of my comment, the shocked look on the faces of many other participants, and the responses which followed, suggested that no French Jewish parent would ever admit publicly to having a gay or lesbian child, much less collaborate in making a match with someone else's son or daughter.

Similarly, during a discussion on adoption and parenting, the Europeans expressed little hope that their judicial or political systems would recognize same-gender parenting any time soon. Nevertheless, many of the men and women I met are planning to raise families, and I alerted them to our own experience following the recent and ongoing changes in (parts of) the U.S., which have made same-gender and blended families a realistic option—start planning for classrooms, because a baby boom is just around the corner! Everyone was excited and encouraged to hear

of the rocketing growth in numbers of kids at CSZ.

Saturday night brought us together under the lights of Paris for a dance party on a converted river barge on the Seine. Festivities continued until 5 am! Throughout the weekend there was ample time for schmoozing and networking, coupled with delicious Sephardic cooking to unify us in a common language—food! Our French hosts from Beit Haverim made everyone feel welcomed and included.

If you haven't already made plans for your 4th of July weekend, consider attending the American cousin to this event, the World Congress' 6th Western Regional Conference in Scottsdale, AZ, July 3–5, being held at a resort hotel with a pool reserved exclusively for "our crowd." Sounds like the perfect antidote for the El Niño winter blues, with sessions offered on financial planning, cooking for Jewish holidays, and foster parenting. For info, contact Aviv of Arizona, P.O. Box 66904, Phoenix, AZ 85024-60904, or Gene Berg, at 602/905-9610 or Gkberg@govideo.com.

## News from the Ritual Committee

—Lyssa Friedman, Chair

What is CSZ's kashrut policy at synagogue-sponsored meals? When in a Shabbat service is an aufruf inserted? Can rice be served at the congregational seder? Why?

Rabbi Litman and the Ritual Committee are forming an advisory group to address these and other questions of halachah. This group will research historical tracts and Responsas and present their recommendations to the Ritual Committee.

The Ritual Committee will use the subcommittee's research to advise the Va'ad on its decisions regarding halachic policy at CSZ-sponsored services and events.

With Rabbi Litman's leadership, the Ritual Committee hopes to answer the question, "What is our kashrut policy?" And, more importantly, we'd like to answer the question, "Why?"

The Ritual Committee meets the last Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. For more information, please contact me at Lyssa1@pacbell.net or 389-6303.

## Teshuva Classes

Join Rabbi Litman for a series of text studies and exercises in spiritual preparation for the High Holidays, entitled "Teshuva: The Annual Return to Our Truest Selves."

- Learn how to prepare your own heshbon hanefesh (personal accounting).

- Study and discuss the Book of Jonah, and how it relates to today.

- Explore contemporary feminist commentary on the holy days.

- Examine the Jewish literature and history of fasting and food.

- Consider concepts of the Divine which reflect our communal values.

Classes will meet Tuesdays at 7:30 pm on August 4, 11, 18 and 25.

## Summer Torah Study

Now that Kadimah is out of session, Torah study will take place only before scheduled CSZ services. Torah study begins at 9 am on the following Shabbat mornings:

- July 11 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

- August 8 at Temple Emanu-El (2 Lake Street at Arguello)

- August 22 at Temple Emanu-El

Trail Midrash hits the paths on July 18 at 10 am. Co-sponsored by La'atid and the Talmud Torah/Adult Education Committee, Trail Midrash is an opportunity to study Torah out in nature. Jacob Rothman will lead a hike during which participants will discuss the weekly Torah portion. Call the CSZ office for location and carpool information.

## Summer Youth Activities

**H**eads up! CSZ Educator, David Shneer, is planning a day of fun Jewish activities for Kadimah students this summer. The day will give students a chance to see their CSZ friends over the summer and to refresh their Hebrew so they will not be foggy in September.

Additionally, planning will begin this summer for a CSZ NFTY chapter for teenagers in our community. Program Director Renée Bauer and David Shneer will invite all post-B'nai Mitzvah students to a meeting this summer. Watch for further details on both of these upcoming youth programs.



## Same-Sex Marriage

*Continued from page 4*

have (so far) thwarted the Netanyahu government's agreeing to legislation that would have prohibited Reform and Conservative conversions in Israel. Scores of Reform and Conservative synagogues, community centers and nursery schools are bursting at the seams. Under pressure from the Israeli public, efforts are being made to have the government grant land for the building of new such synagogues and community centers.

So what does all this have to do with a religious same-gender marriage proposal by American Reform rabbis? As a testament to the concepts of *k'lal Yisrael* (Jewish peoplehood) and the interdependency of the Jews of the Diaspora and Israel, many progressive Israeli leaders believe that passing such a resolution in the U.S. would significantly harm their efforts to secure their Jewish rights.

As Rabbi Motte Rotem, the head of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism wrote, "The impact of such endorsement will be devastating upon us in Israel. We have just begun to make significant headway here. We have an historic opportunity to break through to the masses of Israeli society. The interest in our activities, the great demand for our religious services, the growing number of Israelis who join our congregations, education institutions and centers, all are in danger. Endorsement of same-sex marriages will bring our progress to a screeching halt. Overnight the issue will be transformed from equality for all streams, to the Reform movement pushing itself to the margin of any legitimate religious expression in Israel." While this may be more alarmist than necessary, an essential and accurate point is that ARZA's position on the resolution has everything to do with assisting the non-Orthodox Israeli society, and not in any way pandering to the ultra-Orthodox.

Ron Werber, one of Israel's top political consultants who has recently been engaged by Israel's Reform movement writes, "... While I would not wish to pass judgment on the internal affairs of the Reform movement, I feel an obligation in this case to share with you my concern that such a move would have dire consequences for the Reform move-

ment in Israel, and would jeopardize all of the efforts we have made in recent months to secure recognition for the movement in Israeli society.... The struggle to achieve recognition of Reform Judaism in Israel, and the concomitant effort to build a thriving and influential presence in the Jewish state, is the last and best hope for Israeli society to combat the deleterious effects of ultra-orthodox religious coercion, and to offer a genuine spiritual alternative to what will soon be the world's largest Jewish community.... The success of the movement in Israel will influence the fortunes of the movement around the world. The adoption of the initiative in question would undermine all of these efforts."

Menachem Shezaf, the head of The Association of Gay Men, Lesbians, and Bisexuals in Israel, wrote in an Israeli newspaper, "... I have to ask who was the smart one that raised this topic today, *davka* (especially) now when in Israel the Conversion Law is on the table? Would it not have been better to display a little political smarts, and this is not a curse word, and wait until the Conversion Law vanishes?"

For reasons similar to the above, MARAM, the Israel Council of Progressive Rabbis, has also taken a strong position urging the CCAR not to bring the resolution to a vote.

Failure of the progressive Jewish movements to meaningfully establish themselves in Israel could, in generations ahead, marginalize these same movements in the U.S. and Diaspora. The CCAR's decision to table the resolution, with ARZA's urging, is largely based on the belief that such resolution could damage the building of our movement in Israel. While I don't know if that is true, I trust the opinions of our friends. With the knowledge that our U.S. Reform rabbis have called for same-gender civil marriage and perform same-gender religious ceremonies if they so choose, I'm not willing to take the risk of inadvertently doing significant harm to the ability of Israelis to achieve their human right of religious freedom. I commend ARZA and the CCAR for taking the difficult stand they did in the best interests of *k'lal Yisrael*.

## Children's Education Board Minutes

—Ron Lezell

Following check in and approval of the May 4 minutes, Chair Ruth Rainero reported on a number of important items: Until we can move into our new building, interim space will be available for Kadimah at Holy Family Day Care at 16th and Dolores Streets; Liz Schaffer will join the CEB, Ron Lezell will rotate off, and a new Va'ad representative will be added; feedback from parents at the May 16 meeting was positive; Kadimah has received a \$2,000 grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education to assist in the implementation of our new mid-week program, and other grant requests are pending.

The committee discussed the presentation of Hebrew/Israeli love poetry in the Rishonim class. Rabbi Litman explained that this avant-garde curriculum included highly metaphoric medieval works by Yehuda Halevi that could be interpreted as referring to God's love for the Jewish people and Israel or to love between two men. These poems were taught along with the love poetry found in Song of Songs and students created their own love poetry. We agreed to continue to be diligent in our communication with parents and that, in this case, it would have been appropriate to notify the Rishonim parents beforehand about this component of the class.

Educator David Shneer was in Poland so Rabbi Litman provided a report. Kadimah's year-end picnic was a success. Rabbi Litman encouraged the CEB during the coming year to study Jewish supplementary (non-day school) education, and to continue to work toward creative solutions to policy issues in light of CSZ's particular ideology. Staffing needs for the next school year were also discussed.

Future agenda items include: sexual identity and ethics, G/L/B content in the Kadimah curriculum, expanded discussion of curriculum by class, the Gift of Israel program and High Holy Day childcare.

The CEB will take a well-deserved month off and will next meet on Monday, August 3 at 7 pm. Please contact the office for location if you'd like to attend.



## Contributions

### *Adult Education Fund*

**Doris Weiner and Kenneth Yeffa**, in honor of the joyous celebration of the union of Alisa Weiner and Alison Scott.

**Lucy Bernholz**, in honor of Paula Fleisher's completion of her MA in Education at Stanford University.

**Eli Weinstein**, in honor of Phyllis and George Mintzer.

### *AIDS Fund*

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Thomas Yazman.

**Lezlie Frishman**, with congratulations to Ellen Goldstein for being honored by the STOP AIDS Project, and receiving the HIV Prevention award for her contributions to San Francisco.

### *Bikkur Cholim Fund*

**Renée Bauer**, in appreciation of Rabbi Eric Weiss for his wisdom, compassion and patience as her mentor this year.

### *Chesir-Stein Music Fund*

**Paul T. Dickel**, in honor of David Stein's birthday.

### *Children's Education Fund*

**Bea Lieberman**, in memory of Rose Levin.

**Lezlie Frishman**, with admiration to Ellen Goldstein for her courage, her beauty, her strength and her softness.

**Naftalie and Shoshana Moed**, in honor of Shelley Eisenman's 40th birthday.

### *General Fund*

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Harry Harris.

**Ben Bank and Brian Jersky**, in memory of Jean Skudowitz and Paul Jersky.

**Debra Rein**.

**Eve Meyer**, in memory of Hans Meyer and Hilda L. Meyer.

**George Frankel**.

**Gordon Osser**.

**Mark Troy**, in memory of Ephraim Troy.

**Nina Raff and Annie Winters**, in memory of Lillian Raff and Joey Gordon.

**Rose Katz**, in honor of Tory Weiser's entrance into the covenant.

**Ruth and Ron Miguel**, in memory of Audrey Weinberg.

**Salem Buchholz**, in memory of Ted Buchholz.

**Steve Lowinger**, in memory of Austin Marble.

**Renée Bauer and Jennifer Hirsch**, in honor of Tory Weiser's entrance into the covenant.

**Lezlie Frishman**, to Sam and Ellie—I am so very blessed.

*Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign*

**Lucy Bernholz**, in honor of Paula Fleisher's completion of her MA in Education at Stanford University.

**Batya Kalis**, in memory of Rose Jacobstein.

**Sara McClanahan and Brian Edlin**.

**David Bezanilla**.

**Jerry Rosenstein**.

**Hal Podgur**, in memory of Max Podgur.

**Morris Mondiano**, in memory of Mordo Mondiano.

**Ron Edelman**.

**James Hill**, in honor of James Carlson.

**Morris Mondiano**, in honor of the Mondiano family.

**Jeffrey Piade**.

**Marianne Balin, Annie Downs and Nora Downs**, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer becoming Bat Mitzvah.

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

**Yeva Johnson and Michael Potter**, in honor of the birth and brit milah of Myer Jei Johnson-Potter.

**Leyna Bernstein and Peter Barnes**, in honor of the birth and brit milah of Eli Jonathan Solomon Barnes.

**Jerry Rosenstein**.

**Lolma Olson**, in memory of Cliff Olson.

**Carol Cabell**, in memory of Gene Valeboe.

**Tory Weiser**, honor of Alan Ferrara for his assistance and friendship during her conversion.

**Tory Weiser**, with thanks and appreciation for Rabbi Litman.

**Tory Weiser**, for Robin Leonard's love and help during her conversion.

**Henry Carrey**, in memory of Solomon Post.

Special thanks to the **CSZ Fiction Connection** for their contribution of Volume XIII of the Steinsaltz Edition of the Talmud in memory of Gene Valeboe.

Special thanks to **Gordon Osser** for his contribution of Volume IX of the Steinsaltz Edition of the Talmud in memory of Chuck Kolding.

## President

*Continued from page 3*

our community is, in large measure, due to the value and prominence we place on lay involvement. Without this as a core of our philosophy we would be a very different congregation.

I wish all of you a lovely, peaceful and rewarding summer. Enjoy the relative calmness of these months; rest, reflect and prepare for another exhilarating year of adventures known and unknown.

## Naches

To **Robert Tat**, who has two photographs from his *Found Images* collection on display at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in its current exhibition "Snapshots: The Photography of Everyday Life" through September 8.

To **Rebecca Doctors**, daughter of Judith Cohen, on being confirmed at Congregation Rodef Shalom, and on becoming a National Merit Scholar finalist.

To **Noah Nacamulli**, on becoming Bar Mitzvah.

To **Nancy S. Wecker**, on the completion of her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, specializing in neuropsychology.

To **Renée Bauer**, on completing the lay Jewish Chaplaincy Training Program at Ruach Ami: Bay Area Jewish Healing Center.

To **Ellen Goldstein**, for being honored by the Stop AIDS Project, and receiving the HIV Prevention Award for her contributions to San Francisco.

To **Ron and Ruth Miguel**, on their 45th wedding anniversary.

To **Beth Ross, Laura Trupin and Maia Ross-Trupin**, on the naming of Elias William.

To **Elizabeth Katz**, on her entrance into the covenant.

To **Mark McCormick**, on his entrance into the covenant.

To **Adam Inlander**, on receiving his Masters in Public Administration at USC, his Masters in Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College, and on being selected as Executive Director of Adat Elohim at Thousand Oaks, California.

To **Misha Cohen**, on the publication of her book, *The HIV Wellness Sourcebook: An East-West Guide to Living Well with HIV-AIDS and Related Conditions*.

To **Paula Fleisher**, on the completion of her Master's Degree in Education at Stanford University.

To **Peter Barnes and Leyna Bernstein**, on the birth of their son, Eli.

To **Ellen Silver Maremont (formerly Elias) and Robyn Bramhall**, on their upcoming kiddushin and on Ellen's name change in connection with the ceremony.

To **Batya Kalis**, on her 75th birthday.

To **Yona Barth**, on her graduation from Drew Preparatory High School and her admission to Smith College.

To **Deborah Udin**, on her new position as sales manager for Zephyr Real Estate.



*Eat well and perform a mitzvah!*

## Out of Our Kitchen Closets: San Francisco Gay Jewish Cooking

CSZ's critically acclaimed cookbook is available from the CSZ office or gift shop.

To order by mail, send \$12.95 per book (plus 8.5% sales tax in California) and \$3.50 shipping for the first book and \$1 each additional copy to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

*The cookbook find of the season.*

—Feminist Bookstore News

*Funny, endearing and inventively cross-cultural.*

—San Francisco Chronicle

CSZ donates \$3 from the sale of each book to the Project Open Hand Food Bank, which provides nonperishable items to people with AIDS. To date, we have given in excess of \$17,000.

### Are you on the Net?

Visit our web site at  
[www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

## Dor Rishon to Hear SF Gay Men's Chorus

Dor Rishon, CSZ's men's group, is going to hear "Sumptuous Summer Sounds" performed by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus on Saturday, July 11 at 8 pm. The evening promises to be a combination of fabulous music—the chorus will be accompanied by a full symphony orchestra—and wonderful company. The group rate is \$27 per ticket for orchestra seats. Spaces are limited. Call Sam Messler at 703-0372 to reserve your ticket.

### Members' Yahrzeits

#### July

- |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 4  | Ed Gabay               |
| 6  | David Custead          |
| 9  | Alexander Louis Konski |
| 17 | Steven P. Berman       |
| 25 | Seth Miller            |
| 30 | Phil Resnick           |

#### August

- |    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 2  | David Kotch      |
| 4  | Jordan Berger    |
| 6  | Jay Platt        |
| 7  | Mark Landsberger |
| 16 | Peter Rosenfeld  |
| 18 | Elliot Schneck   |
| 23 | Bill Schlichter  |
| 28 | Jay Feinstein    |

## HIV + Support Group

CSZ has an ongoing drop-in support group for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners each month, in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners. Mark your calendars:

- Saturday, July 11 at 3 pm: Drop-in support group led by Robert Tat.
- Friday, July 31 at 6 pm, catered dinner at the home of a member.
- Saturday, August 15 at 3 pm: Drop-in support group led by Rabbi Litman and Robert Tat.

If you would like more information, or would like to RSVP for the dinner on July 31 (call by July 27), please call the synagogue office.

## Tot Shabbat

Let your children explore the joys of Jewish food at an interactive Tot Shabbat on Friday evening, July 24. Families are invited to join together for a brown bag Shabbat dinner at 6:30 pm followed by a 7:15 pm service. July's Tot Shabbat will focus on stories and tastes of Jewish food. The service and activities are geared towards children ages 2-5, but all members of the CSZ community are welcome to attend and learn with and from our children.

## Classifieds

**HOUSING NEEDED:** 2 people from Washington, DC will be in SF from Aug 1-8 looking for an apartment. (We are moving to SF in September.) Need a place to stay for the week. I am a member of Congregation Bet Mishpachah in DC and a friend of Scott Mezistrano (former CSZ member). We are willing to house-sit, water plants, take care of pets, etc. Work (202) 434-3624 or home (202) 332-7288—David Rachleff and Keith Laskey.

**GOING AWAY?** Between August 10th and September 10th we are available to house-sit and to take loving care of your animals and plants at no charge. References available within the community of Sha'ar Zahav. Call collect (561) 533-0464 or FAX (561) 582-9261 between 7 am and 8 pm PST, ASAP.

**TUTORING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN:** I have years of experience as a professional tutor and classroom teacher. If your child could benefit from extra help over the summer, call Sarita Groisser at (415) 641-8413. All ages, academic subjects and learning styles welcome.

**KAUAI TROPICAL GARDEN RETREAT:** Enchanting setting, perfect for nurturing, healing, romancing. Royal Drive Cottages. Bob Levine/Sandy Meyers Ph/fax, 808/822-2321.

**CLUTTER BUSTERS:** Afraid to open closets? Packing to move? Pesach spring cleaning? I help minimize and reorganize your home or office. References. Bill: 487-8959.

**LEARN SPANISH** with the best teacher! Contact Rosalinda del Moral at 487-1631, ext. 2. Llámame!

**ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:** Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

### Do you have e-mail?

Drop us a line at  
[shaarzahav@igc.apc.org](mailto:shaarzahav@igc.apc.org)



## May Va'ad Minutes

*Continued from page 6*

Buchbinder regarding whether the CCAR would support rabbinical officiation of same-gender marriages. Ron Lezell, our CSZ representative to ARZA, presented his views on why the timing of a vote by the CCAR on this issue is wrong. Rabbi Litman presented contrasting views. No change in our relationship with either ARZA or the CCAR is contemplated.

**President's report.** President Diana Buchbinder reported that Amy Clark is leaving for graduate school at the end of this month.

**Administrator's report.** Lea Salem reported that interviews would begin the day after the Va'ad meeting to select a replacement for Amy. Lea also expressed concerns that the Va'ad give serious thought to an appropriate parting gift for St. Matthew's, given that we have already stayed longer than originally projected.

**Program Director's report.** Renée Bauer reported that the 50th anniversary celebration/service for Israel was lovely. Sukkot in April went well. Thanks to Beth Sousa for behind-the-scenes organizing.

**Treasurer's report.** Treasurer Arthur Slepian reported that we are on target with dues. We are more than halfway to meeting our Phase II goal for the Mishkan Campaign. We received a \$250,000 donation (and dedication of the sanctuary). He moved that a Robert Baird stock account be opened. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

**Membership committee report.** Sara Haber circulated a greeting list and appealed for new members to help the Dues Committee continue their work.

## High Holidays

*Continued from page 1*

Hashanah, as well as for Yizkor/Neilah. Advance, prepaid reservations will be required to ensure that we have enough child care workers and to avoid overcrowding. Child care will not be provided to children without prepaid reservations, and there will be no play areas outside of child care. The child care reservation form will be mailed along with other High Holiday information at the end of July. Subsidies are available for members who cannot afford the full cost, but arrangements must be made through the office well in advance of the holidays.

Child care will not be available for infants who cannot yet sit up by themselves. The back rows of the auditorium will be reserved for people with small

## Talmud Torah/Adult Education Committee

Have you enjoyed the recent classes taught by Rabbi Litman? Do you wish you knew more about Jewish texts and tradition? Are you bursting with ideas of how to make adult learning at CSZ more exciting? Are you looking for a fun committee to join at the synagogue without making a long-term commitment? If so, you are in luck because CSZ's Talmud Torah Committee needs you. The committee meets four to six times a year to plan a variety of adult education programs, and then committee members work with committee chair Sue Bojdak and Program Director Renée Bauer to implement the programs. The next committee meeting is July 22 at 6 pm. If you are interested, please contact Sue at 510/601-6791 or Renée at the CSZ office.

children. Families with infants are welcome to sit there to make it easier to do the baby-bouncing walk to the lobby.

### Begin the New Year with a Mitzvah

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's High Holiday services take place only with an inordinate amount of volunteer time and effort. Your participation is important and help is needed in a number of areas. Call the office for more information.

## Summer Backpacking

Jacob Rothman will lead a weekend backpacking trip into the High Sierras, described by John Muir as one of the most beautiful and accessible mountain ranges in the world. This August 28 trip will consist of a moderate 12.3-mile loop through the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Highlights of the trip include stark alpine peaks (9,050 feet in elevation), glaciated terrain and several remote lakes. If you are looking for an inexpensive and beautiful weekend retreat, this trip is for you.

For information, contact Jacob at 437-2618.

## Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

- 6/5 **Mark McCormick**, in appreciation of his friends who have supported him through his conversion process.
- 6/12 **Ron Edelman**, to celebrate his becoming a member of CSZ.
- 6/19 **Elizabeth Katz**, in honor of her entrance into the covenant.
- 6/26 **Robyn Bramhall and Ellen Silver Maremont**, in honor of their wedding.

## You are needed!

Get to know what's happening early.

Volunteer for the  
Newsletter Committee.

Call Robin (841-0262).

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

## SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL CHEVRA KADISHA

San Francisco ... 1501 Divisadero Street at Geary  
(415) 921-3636

East Bay ... 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette  
(510) 284-3945

Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director





## July Birthdays

- 1 Noah Ritzma Porter
- 2 Danielle Billinkoff
- 2 Alan Foss
- 2 Kellen Kaiser
- 3 Noah Chasnoff
- 3 Virginia Donohue
- 3 Jennifer Hirsch
- 4 Judith Heiman
- 4 Emma Pines-Schwartz
- 4 Nina Jo Smith
- 4 Debra Yates
- 5 Gene Eichenbaum
- 5 Ellen Silver Maremont
- 6 Steven Berlin
- 6 Elizabeth Landsberg
- 6 Roland Stern
- 7 Batya Kalis
- 7 Avi Lieberman
- 7 Catherine Witzling
- 8 Hannah Pines-Schwartz
- 8 Ben Schalit
- 8 Bon Singer
- 8 Laura Trupin
- 9 Steven Elman
- 9 Carolyn Pines
- 10 Samuel Shelton
- 12 Naomi Zingman-Daniels
- 13 Na'ama Firestone
- 13 Sandra Portman
- 13 Deborah Udin
- 13 Jonathan Zimman
- 14 Steve Unger
- 16 Kathleen Rosaria
- 16 Lois Scott
- 16 Samuel Walters
- 16 Stanley Yantis
- 18 Karen Erlichman
- 18 Raphael Hoch
- 18 Gabriel Press-Becker
- 19 Geraldine Barr
- 19 Michael Schaffer
- 20 Mary Morgan
- 20 Maia Ross-Trupin
- 20 Jeffrey Sherman
- 21 Emily Freeman
- 22 Ellen Litman
- 23 Ida Cuttler
- 23 Ron Edelman
- 23 Nancy Meyer
- 24 Elisa Friedlander
- 24 Michael Sieradzki
- 26 Benjie Achtenberg
- 26 Alan Ferrara
- 27 Ann Ritzma
- 27 David Wish
- 28 Susan Schwartz
- 29 Steve Lowinger
- 30 Prudence Carter
- 30 Doron Grossman-Naples



## August Birthdays

- 1 Geoff Benjamin
- 1 Carolyn Reiser
- 2 Leah Halperin
- 2 Michael Kay
- 2 Mark McCormick
- 3 Mark Troy
- 4 Jonathan Funk
- 4 Ethan Kaiser
- 4 Naftali Moed
- 5 Ray Bernstein
- 5 Ron Miguel
- 7 Alan Michels
- 7 Robert Nacamulli
- 8 Cheryl Sena
- 9 Marjorie Bennett
- 9 Allan Gold
- 11 Claudia Rosenbaum
- 12 Judith Bell
- 12 Frank Yellin
- 13 Jonah Levy
- 13 Lonnie Weiss
- 14 Carole Migden
- 15 Seth Moskowitz
- 16 Cheryl Bryan
- 16 William Jones
- 16 Yavn'ela Oline
- 17 Myles Siltan
- 18 Margie Soler
- 19 Dan Bellm
- 19 Paul Cohen
- 19 Elizabeth Schaffer
- 20 Stacey Shuster
- 20 Jonathan Zingman
- 21 Krista Junger
- 23 Rebekah Sutin
- 24 Joshua Shuster-Lefkowitz
- 25 Richard Krieg
- 25 Noah Nacamulli
- 26 Robert Cohen
- 26 Debra Gelber
- 26 Shira Zingman-Daniels
- 27 Michael Chertok
- 27 Kirsten Gustavson
- 27 Charlotte Halloran-Couch
- 27 Jesse Tanenbaum
- 28 Micah Barth-Rogers
- 29 Ann Daniels
- 29 Leslie Katz
- 30 Joseph Hample
- 30 Frederick Hertz
- 30 Shelley Spiro



## National AIDS Memorial Grove

Sha'ar Zahav is teaming up with Jewish Family and Children's Services for a day of memory and community service at the AIDS Memorial Grove on Sunday, August 9, 9 am-1 pm. Volunteers will begin the day with a short service in memory of loved ones lost to AIDS. We will spend the rest of the morning planting, weeding and doing other garden work at this historic memorial.

The National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is the first living memorial to those lost to AIDS and in support of those living with HIV. The project strives to provide a positive focus for grief and promote peace of heart. The grove is meant to create a place for remembrance, hope and renewal as well as a way for the community to recognize the enormity of the AIDS crisis.

Don't miss this valuable mitzvah opportunity! Breakfast and a light lunch will be provided for all volunteers. CSZ members of all ages, their families and friends are encouraged to attend this important community event. Call Renée Bauer in the CSZ office if you would like to help organize the project or to RSVP.

## Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

Sam Messler, on the death of his uncle, David Levin.

Gordon Osser, on the death of his friend, Henry Leland.

## Rabbi News

Rabbi Litman will be on vacation until July 22.

On July 31, Rabbi Litman's sermon topic will be "The Burden of Bickering: Using Torah Wisdom in Conflict Resolution." Her sermon topic on August 7 will be the "Historical Roots and Contemporary Transformation of Tu B'Av."

On August 23, Rabbi Litman will be giving the sermon at the Unitarian Center as part of a pulpit exchange. On August 21, Pastor John March from the Unitarian Center will give the sermon at CSZ.



## Synagogue Information

### Rabbi Jane Litman

#### Officers:

*President*, Diana Buchbinder  
(337-6319 or  
threebuchs@sprynet.com)  
*First Vice President*, David Gellman  
*Second Vice President*, Susan  
Tubbesing  
*Treasurer*, Arthur Slepian  
*Recorder*, Joe Hample

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Ellie Cohen  
Sarita Groisser  
Sara Haber  
Lisa Katz  
Robin Leonard  
Eileen Levy  
Julie Moed  
Jacob Rothman  
Robert Tat

#### CSZ Staff:

*Educator*, David Shneer  
*Administrator*, Lea Salem  
*Program Director*, Renée Bauer  
*Kadimah Head Teacher*, Phyllis Mintzer  
*Administrative Assistant*, Charlotte Smith

#### Committee Chairs:

*Adult Education*, Sue Bojdak  
*Archives*, open  
*ARZA contact*, Ron Lezell  
*Baby Chavurah*, Lisa Katz  
*Bequests and Donations*, Richard  
Inlander  
*Bikkur Cholim*, David Shaber  
*Bisexual Chavurah*, Jim Frazin  
*Book Group*, Mark Mackler  
*Bylaws*, Edward Pollock  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Children's Education Board*, Ruth  
Rainero  
*Cookbook Project*, Robin Leonard  
*Dor Rishon*, Sam Messler  
*Dues Liaison*, Sara Haber  
*East Bay Services*, Hilary Zaid  
*Endowment Fund*, Merry Luskin  
*Environmental Action*, Barak Gale and  
Brian Besser

*Finance*, Arthur Slepian  
*Fine Arts*, Robert Gutterman  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*La'atid*, Geoff Benjamin  
*Leadership Development*, Paul Cohen  
*Library*, in formation  
*Long-Range Planning*, Allan Gold  
*Membership*, Ami Zusman  
*Mishkan Dolores Overall*, Tiela  
Chalmers  
*Mishkan Dolores Fundraising*,  
Ellie Cohen and Lisa Katz  
*Mishkan Dolores Architecture  
and Design*, Alice Prussin  
*Newsletter*, Robin Leonard  
*Past Presidents Council*, Merry Luskin  
*Personnel*, Susan Tubbesing  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslafsky  
*Rabbi Liaison*, Allan Gold  
*Ritual*, Lyssa Friedman  
*Social Action*, open  
  
*Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah*, Ilana  
Bernstein  
*UAHC National Liaison*, Mike Rankin  
*UAHC Regional Liaison*, Daniel Chesir  
*WGLJO Liaison*, Neil Grungras  
*Women's Chavurah*, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair  
are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Congress

of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.



<b>1</b> Wednesday 7 Tammuz • 7 pm, Advance Planning Committee	<b>10</b> Friday 16 Tammuz • 7:15 pm, Niggun service • 8:15 pm, Candle lighting • 8:15 pm, Shabbat Balak, led by Tiela Chalmers, Jhos Singer and Leah Halperin	<b>17</b> Friday 23 Tammuz • 8:12 pm, Candle lighting • 8:15 pm, East Bay service at the home of Ed Tanovitz, 1612 East 38th St., Oakland (510/482-4825) • 8:15 pm, Shabbat Pinchas, led by Inbal Kashtan, Sarita Groisser and Benjie Achtenberg; sermon by Inbal Kashtan	<b>24</b> Friday 1 Av • Advance • 6:30 pm, Tot Shabbat brown-bag dinner • 7:30 pm, Tot Shabbat service • 8:07 pm, Candle lighting • 8:15 pm, Shabbat Mattot-Masei, led by Tova Green, Nina Wouk and Benjie Achtenberg; sermon by Nina Wouk
<b>2</b> Thursday 8 Tammuz	<b>11</b> Saturday 17 Tammuz • 9 am, Torah study at St. Matthew's • 10 am, Shabbat morning service, led by Daniel Chesir, Lyssa Friedman and Benjie Achtenberg • 3 pm, HIV support group, led by Robert Tat • 8 pm, Dor Rishon attends Gay Men's Chorus	<b>18</b> Saturday 24 Tammuz • 10 am, Trail Midrash	<b>25</b> Saturday 2 Av • Advance
<b>3</b> Friday 9 Tammuz • 7 pm, Early service, led by Ora Prochovnick • 8:15 pm, Shabbat Chukkat, led by Jonathan Funk and Steve Weitz; sermon by Robin Leonard • 8:17 pm, Candle lighting	<b>12</b> Sunday 18 Tammuz	<b>19</b> Sunday 25 Tammuz • CSZ participates in the AIDS Walk	<b>26</b> Sunday 3 Av • Advance
<b>4</b> Saturday 10 Tammuz	<b>13</b> Monday 19 Tammuz • 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting	<b>20</b> Monday 26 Tammuz • 6 pm, Healing service, Congregation Sherith Israel • 7 pm, Advance Planning Committee • 7 pm, Membership Committee	<b>27</b> Monday 4 Av
<b>5</b> Sunday 11 Tammuz	<b>14</b> Tuesday 20 Tammuz	<b>21</b> Tuesday 27 Tammuz	<b>28</b> Tuesday 5 Av
<b>6</b> Monday 12 Tammuz • 6 pm, Healing service, Congregation Sherith Israel • 7 pm, Children's Education Board	<b>15</b> Wednesday 21 Tammuz	<b>22</b> Wednesday 28 Tammuz • 6 pm, Talmud Torah/Adult Education Committee	<b>29</b> Wednesday 6 Av
<b>7</b> Tuesday 13 Tammuz • 6:30 pm, Dues Committee	<b>16</b> Thursday 22 Tammuz • 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim	<b>23</b> Thursday 29 Tammuz	<b>30</b> Thursday 7 Av • 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee
<b>8</b> Wednesday 14 Tammuz	<b>Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.</b>		
<b>9</b> Thursday 15 Tammuz			<b>31</b> Friday 8 Av • 6 pm, HIV Support Group • 8:01 pm, Candle lighting • 8:15 pm, Shabbat Devarim/Shabbat Chazon, led by Rabbi Litman, Debby Gelber and Jonah Levy; sermon by Rabbi Litman

## East Bay Services

- 7/17 Home of Ed Tanovitz, 1612 East 38th Street, Oakland (510/482-4825)
- 8/21 Home of Shelley Spiro and Gabriele Kassner, 2431 Burlington, Oakland (510/482-5967)

## SEPTEMBER FORWARD DEADLINES

### FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, AUGUST 3

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

### FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, AUGUST 3

For the September issue only, please submit your article on both a 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper *double spaced*. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. *No deadline extensions will be available.*



## **1** Saturday 9 Av

- 8:30 pm, Tisha B'Av service, led by Rabbi Litman and Brian Besser

## **2** Sunday 10 Av

## **3** Monday 11 Av

- 6 pm, Healing service, Congregation Sherith Israel
- 7 pm, Children's Education Committee

## **4** Tuesday 12 Av

- 6:30 pm, Dues Committee
- 7:30 pm, Rabbi Litman's Teshuva class

## **5** Wednesday 13 Av

- 7 pm, Newsletter editing, 540 Fell St. at Laguna

## **6** Thursday 14 Av

## **7** Friday 15 Av

- 7 pm, Early service
- 7:54 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Va-Etchannan, led by Rabbi Litman and Leah Halperin; sermon by Rabbi Litman; Tu B'Av program following services, at the home of Marjorie Bennett, 245 Roosevelt Way

## **8** Saturday 16 Av

- 9 am, Torah study, Congregation Emanu-el
- 10 am, Shabbat morning service, Bar Mitzvah of Benjie Achtenberg at Congregation Emanu-el, led by Rabbi Kahn, Rabbi Litman and Lyssa Friedman

## **9** Sunday 17 Av

- 9 am, AIDS Memorial Grove work day

## **10** Monday 18 Av

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting
- 7 pm, Newsletter proofreading and layout, 540 Fell St. at Laguna

## **11** Tuesday 19 Av

- 7:30 pm, Rabbi Litman's Teshuva class

## **12** Wednesday 20 Av

## **13** Thursday 21 Av

## **14** Friday 22 Av

- 7:15 pm, Niggun service
- 7:46 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Ekev, led by Larry Wexler and Jonah Levy

**Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.**

## **15** Saturday 23 Av

- 3 pm, HIV Support Group, led by Rabbi Litman and Robert Tat

## **16** Sunday 24 Av

## **17** Monday 25 Av

- 6 pm, Healing service, Congregation Sherith Israel
- 7 pm, Membership Committee

## **18** Tuesday 26 Av

- 7:30 pm, Rabbi Litman's Teshuva class

## **19** Wednesday 27 Av

## **20** Thursday 28 Av

- 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim Committee

## **21** Friday 29 Av

- 7:37 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, East Bay service at the home of Shelley Spiro and Gabrielle Kassner, 2431 Burlington, Oakland (510/482-5967)
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Re'eh, led by Rabbi Litman and Michael Schwartz; sermon by Unitarian Center Pastor John Marsh

## **22** Saturday 30 Av

- 9 am, Torah Study, Congregation Emanu-el
- 10 am, Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Levy at Congregation Emanu-el, led by Brian Besser

## **23** Sunday 1 Elul

- Rabbi Litman gives sermon at Unitarian Center

## **24** Monday 2 Elul

## **25** Tuesday 3 Elul

- 7:30 pm, Rabbi Litman's Teshuva class

## **26** Wednesday 4 Elul

## **27** Thursday 5 Elul

- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee

## **28** Friday 6 Elul

- La'atid backpacking trip
- 7:27 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Shoftim, led by Patricia Lin; sermon by Patricia Lin

## **29** Saturday 7 Elul

- La'atid backpacking trip

## **30** Sunday 8 Elul

- La'atid backpacking trip

## **31** Monday 9 Elul



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## Mishkan Dolores

*call for donations and volunteers*

As you no doubt have noticed if you've been by our new building, construction is moving full-steam ahead. The new roof trusses are on, and the arching sanctuary roof is on its way to completion. We anticipate moving into the building just after High Holidays, with dedication festivities scheduled around Chanukah.

We need your help in two arenas.

First, can you donate any of the following items to be used in the new building?

- refrigerator
- large microwave
- bookcases
- nice office furniture
- armoire desk (that closes up)
- chairs and tables, including kid-size items

Second, can you pitch in to help us save money and feel connected to our new home? At the 1997 annual congregational meeting, we agreed to do some of the demolition and painting ourselves. The demolition last year was a lot of fun; we expect the painting parties to be the same. They will likely be scheduled over two or more weekends in late August or early September. No talent or previous experience is required.

If you can help by donating items or participating in a painting party, please complete the form below and return it to the synagogue office, 290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Thanks!

-----  
*Yes!*

[ ☐ ] I can donate the following item(s) to the new building: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[ ☐ ] I would like to help paint.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferable way to be contacted: [ ☐ ] home [ ☐ ] work [ ☐ ] e-mail



